United Nations CRC/C/SR.2283

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
16 May 2018

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-eighth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2283rd meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 14 May 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Winter

Contents

Opening of the session

Submission of reports by States parties

Organizational matters

Adoption of the agenda

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chair** declared open the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Opening statement by the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

2. **Mr. Abdelmoula** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that he wished to express the condolences of the Office to the Committee on the death of former Committee member Mr. Nogueira Neto, who had been an enthusiastic and committed defender of children's rights.

3. Almost 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and despite its nearly universal ratification, children still faced huge challenges to having their rights recognized and enforced. According to a recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 1 billion children were either effectively uncounted or living in countries where the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals remained out of reach. Projections for the future were dire: in the years up to 2030, 10 million children would die from preventable causes before their fifth birthday, 31 million would be stunted owing to inadequate nutrition and 22 million would miss out on pre-primary education. The world had 12 years to reverse those trends and reach the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The work of the Committee in assisting States parties to comply with their duties was indispensable in that regard.

4. With negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration drawing to a close, it was crucial that the future global framework for cooperation on migration should provide adequate protection of children's rights. Child protection and welfare should be a primary consideration in all migration policies and practices. He had thus been pleased to learn that the two joint general comments issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had been shared with the co-facilitators leading the intergovernmental process.

5. He noted with satisfaction that the preparations for the Committee's forthcoming day of general discussion on protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders were proceeding well. He welcomed in particular the contribution of the children's advisory team established by Child Rights Connect to those preparations and to the draft working methods on child participation in days of general discussion being developed by the Committee. He hoped that the Committee's practice would serve as an example to other bodies, such as the Human Rights Council, and encourage more active participation of children in their sessions. It was important that children's voices should be heard.

6. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly had taken a number of decisions that had serious implications for OHCHR and the human rights treaty bodies, including insufficient resources for the Committee's work on individual communications under article 5 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. While OHCHR was currently looking into ways of adjusting to the situation, it might not be possible to provide the same level of support for some activities as in the past. The situation would be addressed in the second of the reports that the Secretary-General was to present to the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/268. Needless to say, OHCHR remained committed to providing all treaty bodies with the highest quality of support and it would review the situation if the outlook improved in the future.

7. Several Member States and private foundations had provided funding to launch the global study on the situation of children deprived of liberty. The number of children deprived of their liberty would be counted from 26 June 2018, with States parties expected to submit completed questionnaires by 1 September 2018. The study would be finalized by June 2019 for presentation to the General Assembly in September of the same year.

8. The Human Rights Council would hold a full-day meeting in March 2019 on the theme "Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education". Through its Management Plan 2018–2021, OHCHR had made young people a spotlight population for the work of the Office. A report on the human rights of youth was being prepared for submission to the Human Rights Council in September 2018, and a resolution on the topic was expected.

Submission of reports by States parties

9. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee) said that 9 reports had been received since the previous session, bringing the number of reports pending consideration to 46. Australia, Austria, the Cook Islands, El Salvador, Micronesia, Mozambique, Portugal, Tonga and Tuvalu had submitted reports on the implementation of the Convention. The initial reports of Somalia, South Sudan and the State of Palestine were overdue. The number of States that had ratified the Convention remained unchanged at 196.

10. The number of ratifications of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography remained unchanged at 167 and 174, respectively. The number of ratifications of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure remained at 37.

Organizational matters

11. **The Chair**, reviewing the items on the agenda, said that the Committee would examine nine reports submitted by seven States parties: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Lesotho, Montenegro, Norway and the Russian Federation.

12. She welcomed the many partners who contributed to the Committee's work. Discussions would continue on the Committee's methods of work, especially in connection with the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, and the treaty body strengthening process. Any communications or information received relating to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure would also be considered. The Committee would continue preparations for the forthcoming day of general discussion, continue its revision of its general comment No. 10 (2007) on children's rights in juvenile justice and discuss any other matters relating to its work.

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/78/1)

13. *The agenda was adopted.*

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.25 a.m.